This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

The Status of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended): A method for providing local information to a user device, the method comprising:

receiving a broadcast information stream at a first data rate at a headend;

identifying erroneous packets received in the broadcast information stream;

inserting one or more packets from a local information stream into the broadcast information stream to replace the erroneous packets and to form a combined information stream: and

transmitting the combined information stream to the user device at a second data rate.

2. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

3. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

4. (Currently Amended): A method for providing local information to a user device, the method comprising:

identifying erroneous packets received in a broadcast information stream;

combining [[a]] the broadcast information stream at a first data rate and a local information stream to form a combined information stream at a second data rate, wherein the combining includes replacing the erroneous packets received in the broadcast information stream with the local information stream; and

receiving the combined information stream at the user device.

5. (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

6. (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

7. (Currently Amended): A method for providing local information to a user device, the method comprising:

receiving a broadcast information stream including one or more erroneous packets ~~unusable to the user device~~;

inserting one or more local information packets in place of the [[unusable]] erroneous packets, to form a combined information stream; and

transmitting the combined information stream to the user device.

8. (Original): The method according to claim 7, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

9. (Original): The method according to claim 7, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

10. (Currently Amended): A system for providing local information to a user device, the system comprising:

a headend coupled to the user device;

a local information source coupled to the headend; and

a broadcast information source coupled to the headend, the system configured to:

receive a broadcast information stream from the broadcast information source at a first rate at the headend;

identify erroneous packets received in the broadcast information stream;

insert one or more packets from a local information stream from the local information source into the broadcast information stream to replace the erroneous packets and to form a combined information stream; and

transmit the combined information stream to the user device at a second data rate.

11. (Original): The system according to claim 10, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

12. (Original): The system according to claim 10, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

13. (Currently Amended): A system for providing local information to a user device, the system comprising:

a broadcast information stream at a first data rate, wherein the broadcast information stream includes erroneous packets; and

a local information stream, the system configured to:

identify erroneous packets received in a broadcast information stream;

combine the broadcast information stream and the local information stream to form a combined information stream at a second data rate, by replacing erroneous packets with the local information stream; and

receive the combined information stream at the user device.

14. (Original): The system according to claim 13, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

15. (Original): The system according to claim 13, wherein the first data rate is around 20Mbps and the second data rate is around 25Mbps.

16. (Currently Amended): A system for providing local information to a user device, the system comprising:

a headend coupled to the user device;

a local information source coupled to the headend; and

a broadcast information source coupled to the headend, the system configured to:

receive a broadcast information stream including one or more packets unneeded by the user device;

identify blank packets received in the broadcast information stream;

insert one or more local information packets in place of the ~~unneeded~~ blank packets, to form a combined information stream; and

transmit the combined information stream to the user device.

17. (Original): The system according to claim 16, wherein the user device includes at least one of the following: a display, a computer, a VCR, a DVR, a set-top box, and a TV.

18. (Original): The system according to claim 16, wherein the first data rate is around 30Mbps and the second data rate is less than 100kbps.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The method according to claim 1, further including identifying blank packets received in the broadcast information stream and inserting one or more packets from the local information stream to replace the blank packets.

22. (New) The system according to claim 10, further including identifying blank packets received in the broadcast information stream and inserting one or more packets from the local information stream to replace the blank packets.